



# THE SEARCHER

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WIGS NEWSLETTER –Winter 2018 - Vol. XXIII No.4

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## WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS (WIGS)

Bringing together the generations to strengthen and support the family bond!

WIGS meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June at 1:00 PM in the fire station at 2720 Heller Road, Oak Harbor, WA.

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### OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

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- President: Margie Kott
- Vice-Pres.: Ed Hammond
- Secretary: Cathi Mann-Fisher
- Treasurer: Barbara Green
- Auditor: vacant
- Historian: Jeanan Richter
- Library Custodian: Vacant
- Membership: Judy Wagner
- Parliamentarian: Betty Leitch
- Programs/Publicity: Bobby O’Neal
- Education & trips: Pat Gardner
- The Searcher: John Richter
- Refreshments: Vacant
- Sound: David Flomerfelt
- Ways & Means: Ed Hammond
- Webmaster: Jackie Vannice

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### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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For a quick check on what is happening with WIGS, visit <http://www.whidbeygensearchers.org>

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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While driving around today trying to finish up my Christmas shopping, I rounded a curve near the water and the thought hit me that I am so grateful for the things I have. Not so much the material things but that my family is in good health, we have food for the table, we live in such beautiful surroundings, and that I get to meet with some pretty great friends from time to time ...you!

So, now is a good time to thank each and every one of you for your involvement in our group. This past year has been a busy one and I believe we have succeeded in getting our name out in the public a bit more and have spurred new interest in family history. I have appreciated your energy, new ideas and participation as we have gone throughout the year and know that 2019 will turn out to be just as successful under Margie's leadership.

A special thanks to all who stepped up to fill vacated offices and chair positions, giving some of us a rest in the coming year.

You will probably find me sitting at my desk trying to piece my family together and throwing away all those notes I have gathered over the years!

**Happy Holidays** to you and yours,  
Jackie

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**THEGENEALOGIST a UK SOURCE**

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TheGenealogist is an award-winning online family history website, who put a wealth of information at the fingertips of family historians. Their approach is to bring hard to use physical records to life online with easy to use interfaces such as their Tithe and newly released Lloyd George Domesday collections.

TheGenealogist's innovative SmartSearch technology links records together to help you find your ancestors more easily. TheGenealogist is one of the leading providers of online family history records. Along with the standard Birth, Marriage, Death and Census records, they also have significant collections of Parish and Nonconformist records, PCC Will Records, Irish Records, Military records, Occupations, Newspaper record collections amongst many others.

TheGenealogist uses the latest technology to help you bring your family history to life. UseTheGenealogist to find your ancestors today!

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

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**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES – UK**

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The National Archives is one of the world's most valuable resources for research and an independent research organization in its own right. As the official archive and publisher for the UK government, and England and Wales they are the guardians of some of the UK's most

iconic national documents, dating back over 1,000 years. Their role is to collect and secure the future of the government record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible and available as possible. The National Archives brings together the skills and specialisms needed to conserve some of the oldest historic documents as well as leading digital archive practices to manage and preserve government information past, present and future.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

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**New Records on FamilySearch from  
November 2018**

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*The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:*

FamilySearch expanded its free online archives in November 2018 with almost 90 million new indexed family history records and almost 300,000 digital images from around the world. New historical records were added from Benin, Chile, Costa Rica, The Dominican Republic, England, Germany, Honduras, Ireland, Lesotho, Liberia, Nicaragua, Peru, and the United States, which includes California, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Native American Enrollment Records, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington. New digital images were added from BillionGraves .

Find your ancestors using these free archives online, including birth, marriage, death, and church records. Millions of new genealogy records are added each month to make your search easier.

Use the following link to see much more information.

Use the following link for much more detailed information.

<https://blog.eogn.com/2018/12/03/new-records-on-familysearch-from-november-2018/>

Dick Eastman December 3, 2018

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**Announcing a 72-Hour Scan-a-Thon: Genealogists are Invited to Participate in Scanning Marathon**  
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*This might be a fun thing to do, especially if you have interesting items you wish to share with the genealogy community.*

**December 6, 2018:** On the weekend of January 11-14, 2019, WikiTree and GeneaBloggersTRIBE will kick off the new year by hosting a 72-hour image scanning marathon. Genealogists and family historians from around the world are invited to participate.

The goal of the Scan-a-Thon is to scan and upload photos and other items such as letters, postcards, funeral cards, and primary documents. Like a marathon, this is a competition to see who can do the most, but most participants won't be serious competitors. Most will be doing it for the sake of preserving family history.

To add to the fun and collaborative atmosphere, participants will be organized into teams by geography and genealogical interest, such as Team Acadia, Nor'Easters, Windsor Warriors, Flying Dutchmen and Legacy Heirs.

Live chats will be hosted every few hours during the three-day event for participants to cheer each other on. During every chat a Scan-a-Thon t-shirt will be given away to a randomly-drawn participant who has registered in advance on WikiTree.

"Photos and documents can truly enhance our research, giving a face and details to our ancestors and their lives that we might not otherwise have," says WikiTree "Forest Elf" Eowyn Langholf. "This is why we're encouraging everyone to join us in preserving this important part of our family history."

Volunteers can participate during the 72-hour period by scanning photos and documents in their collection and uploading them to the Internet. Members of WikiTree can register [here](#). Non-WikiTreers can sign up [here](#). If you are a blogger and would like to participate, contact [eowyn@wikitree.com](mailto:eowyn@wikitree.com).

WikiTree has been growing since 2008. Community members privately collaborate with close family members on modern family history and publicly collaborate with other genealogists on deep ancestry. Since all the private and public profiles are connected on the same system this process is growing a single family tree that will eventually connect us all and thereby make it free and easy for anyone to discover their roots. See <http://www.WikiTree.com>.

*The above announcement was written by WikiTree and the GeneaBloggersTRIBE:*

*Dick Eastman · December 6, 2018*

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**FAMILY BLACK SHEEP**  
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Looking for the shady characters in your own family tree? Whether they were bootleggers or brothel owners, black sheep are some of the most interesting ancestors you'll ever trace. Our 10 Things to Know will help you figure out why – and where to turn to herd your own family's black sheep.

1. Who's the black sheep in your family? He or she is the one who went against the grain -- negatively. Of course it's all a matter of perception, but you may discover that you're looking at a black sheep simply by looking at comments in the census and elsewhere
2. Black sheep often have deep paper trails. Depending on you ancestor's black sheep offense, you may find his or her trail in newspaper records, court records, and even

prison records. If committing crimes – and getting caught and tried – was your black sheep’s forte, check newspapers more carefully. Coverage of a criminal trial may have lasted months and extended well beyond the town or county in which it was committed. Even petty criminals could make repeat appearances in the town’s published police blotter.

3. Family stories are comfortable homes for black sheep ancestors. But before you add Jesse James to your family tree, check out the story carefully. Passed-down stories are notorious for their on-the-fly edits, which in turn get handed to the next generation and beyond. To sort truth from fiction, create a timeline of the story and mesh it with known records. Jot down ages, years and family relationships from census and birth, marriage and death records. Check city directories for whereabouts during the 10 years between censuses. Search yearbooks and the Defective, Dependent and Delinquent census schedule for details about childhoods (see #9 for more). And check the attic for clues lurking in albums and scrapbooks.

4. What’s in a black sheep’s name? Whether your black sheep ancestor was escaping the law, a jilted lover or something else entirely, he or she may have adopted a new name. If you think that’s the case with your black sheep ancestor, try the following:

a. Search by criteria. Forget names and use birthplace, age, gender, occupation and other details that match your ancestor. Pay attention to names that sound familiar: a family member’s maiden name or middle name, for example.

b. Lengthen and shorten names. The alias might be taken from the existing surname.

c. Follow the black sheep’s address in city directories. The name

may have changed even when the address remained the same.

5. Other people may have written about your black sheep ancestor – in their own histories. Check written local histories and biographies of law-enforcement officers: either may mention local notorious characters.

6. Certain geographic locations attracted black sheep. The American West was big – and wild. Check state and territory censuses and newspapers carefully if you think your ancestor migrated, even temporarily. Black sheep in the UK? If he or she was of the criminal variety, check Australian records, too.

7. Black sheep on the lamb. More than just a pun, it’s a fact: black sheep had reason to travel the globe or get away from something (see #4). Look for them in passports (bonus: you often get a photo, too), on passenger lists, and in out-of-town newspapers. You’ll even find a handful of histories about “privateers” and “pirates” in the Ancestry.com card catalog.

8. Everyone has a mother – even black sheep. Follow the family of a black sheep ancestor in census records and newspapers. You may find mentions of him or her visiting kin, living with a parent, child, sibling or even next door. Pay careful attention to boarders and neighbors who seem to match the black sheep’s description.

9. Even the government tracked black sheep. A special census schedule taken in 1880, the Defective, Dependent and Delinquent schedule, included details about people who were imprisoned. While most people included in this special schedule weren’t black sheep, it’s still worth taking a look: details included are particularly rich. Also remember that prisons and

asylums were enumerated in state and federal censuses.

10. Other members of the family may not want to talk about the black sheep. When you're up against a tightly held family story, dive into the following black sheep-only collections at Ancestry.com to see if you can learn more:

#### U.S.

Alcatraz, California, U.S. Penitentiary, Prisoner Index, 1934-1963

McNeil Island, Washington, U.S. Penitentiary, Records of Prisoners Received, 1887-1939

Leavenworth, Kansas,

U.S. Penitentiary, Name Index to Inmate

Case Files, 1895-1931

Atlanta, Georgia,

U.S. Penitentiary, Prisoner Index, ca. 1880-1922

Ft. Smith Criminal Case Files

#### UK

England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892

Birmingham, Warwickshire, England, Pub Blacklist, 1903-1906

UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849

UK, Licences of Parole for Female Convicts, 1853-1871, 1883-1887

#### Australia

New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849 Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Other Fleets & Ships, 1791-1868

New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Convicts' Applications to Marry, 1826-1851

New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia, Convict Pardons, 1834-1859 Australia,

List of Convicts with Particulars, 1788-1842 Australian Convict Index, 1788-1868 New South

Wales, Australia Convict Ship Muster Rolls and Related Records, 1790-1849

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Death Register, 1826-1879

Australia - Convict Savings Bank Books, 1824-1886

New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons 1791-1867

Australian Convict Transportation Registers – First Fleet, 1787-1788

Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Second Fleet, 1789-1790

Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Third Fleet, 1791

Free Guides from Ancestry.com

<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Free-Research>

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### **The Orphan Trains**

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From the 1850s through the 1920s, New York City was teeming with tens of thousands of homeless and orphaned children. To survive, these so-called "street urchins" resorted to begging, stealing, or forming gangs to commit violence. Some children worked in factories and slept in doorways or flophouses. The children roamed the streets and slums with little or no hope of a successful future. Their numbers were stunningly large; an estimated 30,000 children were homeless in New York City in the 1850s. Charles Loring Brace, the founder of The Children's Aid Society, believed that there was a way to change the futures of these children. By removing youngsters from the poverty and debauchery of the city streets and placing them in morally upright farm families, he thought they would have a chance to escape a lifetime of suffering.

Brace proposed that these children be sent by train to live and work on farms out west. They would be placed in homes for free, but they would serve as an extra pair of hands to help with chores around the farm. They wouldn't be indentured. In fact, older children placed by The Children's Aid Society were to be paid for their labors.

The Orphan Train Movement lasted from 1853 to the 1920s, placing more than 120,000 children. Most of these children survived into adulthood, married, and had children of their own. Several million Americans today can find former Orphan Train children in their family trees.

Orphan Trains stopped at more than 45 states across the country, as well as Canada and Mexico. During the early years, Indiana received the largest number of children. There were numerous agencies nationwide that placed children on trains to go to foster homes. In New York, besides Children's Aid, other agencies that placed children included Children's Village (then known as the New York Juvenile Asylum), what is now New York Foundling Hospital, and the former Orphan Asylum Society of the City of New York, which is now the Graham-Windham Home for Children. Not all the children were from New York City. Children from Albany and other cities in New York state were transported, as were some from Boston, Massachusetts, where the Boston Children's Services merged with the New England Home For Little Wanderers, which also is still active today.

Only a few of the Orphan Train children are alive today, and most were too young at the time to remember their experiences. However, a few elderly Americans can recall their experiences on the Orphan Trains.

Stanley Cornell and his brother are amongst the last generation of Orphan Train riders. When asked about his experience, Mr. Cornell replied, "We'd pull into a train station, stand outside the

coaches dressed in our best clothes. People would inspect us like cattle farmers. And if they didn't choose you, you'd get back on the train and do it all over again at the next stop."

Cornell and his brother were "placed out" twice with their aunts in Pennsylvania and Coffeyville, Kansas. Unfortunately, these placements didn't last, and they were returned to the Children's Aid Society.

"Then they made up another train. Sent us out West. A hundred-fifty kids on a train to Wellington, Texas," Cornell recalls. "That's where Dad happened to be in town that day."

Each time an Orphan Train was sent out, adoption ads appeared in local papers before the arrival of the children.

J.L. Deger, a 45-year-old farmer, knew he wanted a boy, even though he already had two daughters, ages 10 and 13.

"He'd just bought a Model T. Mr. Deger looked those boys over. We were the last boys holding hands in a blizzard, December 10, 1926," Cornell remembers. He says that day he and his brother stood in a hotel lobby.

"He asked us if we wanted to move out to farm with chickens, pigs, and a room all to your own. He only wanted to take one of us, decided to take both of us."

Life on the farm was hard work.

"I did have to work and I expected it, because they fed me, clothed me, loved me. We had a good home. I'm very grateful. Always have been, always will be."

Cornell eventually got married. He and his wife, Earleen, lived in Pueblo, Colorado. His brother, Victor Cornell, eventually moved to Moscow, Idaho.

Some of the children struggled in their newfound surroundings, while many others went on to lead simple, very normal lives, raising their families and working towards the American dream. Although records weren't always well kept, some of the children placed in the West went on to great successes. There were two governors,

one congressman, one sheriff, two district attorneys, and three county commissioners, as well as numerous bankers, lawyers, physicians, journalists, ministers, teachers, and businessmen.

The Orphan Train Movement and the success of other children's aid initiatives led to a host of child welfare reforms, including child labor laws, adoption and foster care services, public education, and the provision of health care and nutrition and vocational training.

Many web sites provide information about America's Orphan Trains:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan\\_Train](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train)  
<https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/about/orphan-train-movement>

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2400>  
<http://encyclopedia.adoption.com/entry/Orphan-Train-Heritage-Society-of-America-Inc-OTHS/267/1.html>

Even more sites about Orphan Trains, many of them dedicated to Orphan Train experiences in specific states, may be found on Cyndi's List at: <https://www.cyndislist.com/orphans/orphan-trains/>.

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GENEALOGY CHRISTMAS JINGLE  
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On the first day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
A Family Bible for my McGinnis family

On the second day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis family

On the third day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations

and a Family Bible for my McGinnis family

On the fourth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis family

On the fifth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis family

On the sixth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
6 new found cousins  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis family

On the seventh day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
7 marriage records  
6 new found cousins  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis family

On the eighth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
8 tombstone photos  
7 marriage records  
6 new found cousins  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts

2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis  
family

On the ninth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
9 DNA test results  
8 tombstone photos  
7 marriage records  
6 new found cousins  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis  
family

On the tenth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
10 Eureka Moments  
9 DNA test results  
8 tombstone photos  
7 marriage records  
6 new found cousins  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis  
family

On the eleventh day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
11 genealogy subscriptions  
10 Eureka Moments  
9 DNA test results  
8 tombstone photos  
7 marriage records  
6 new found cousins  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis  
family

On the first day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me:  
12 well-sourced family trees

11 genealogy subscriptions  
10 Eureka Moments  
9 DNA test results  
8 tombstone photos  
7 marriage records  
6 new found cousins  
5 brickwall solutions  
4 family photos  
3 Pedigree Charts  
2 Source Citations  
and a Family Bible for my McGinnis  
family

Credits:  
Original lyrics by Lorine McGinnis  
Schulze 2013

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**Year End Sales**  
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Watch your favorite, and other, genealogy web sites for year end sales. Most popular are the DNA tests which could make good holiday gifts for family.

You may find discounts on various subscription sites. Don't forget to use google to do your searching.

Anyone having a topic they would like to see or share in the Searcher please let me know.  
John

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